WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method of charging for a plurality of voice calls received into a
2   packetized voice network, comprising:
3   determining one or more parameters associated with a number of information
4   units used to transmit the plurality of voice calls over the packetized
5   voice network; and
6   preparing a bill for the plurality of voice calls as a function of the one or more
7   parameters.

1   2.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or
2   more parameters, is used to prepare the bill according to a total number of information
3   units transmitted during a predetermined period.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or
2   more parameters is used to prepare the bill according to an average number of
3   information units transmitted during a predetermined period.

1   4.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or
2   more parameters is used to prepare the bill according to a peak number of information
3   units transmitted during a predetermined time period.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the information units are
2   transmitted over a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) network.

1   6.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a network management
2   protocol determines the one or more parameters associated with the number of
3   information units transmitted.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the voice calls include
2   modem calls.

1   8.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the voice calls are received
2   into the network from one or more ingress points.

1   9.   The method as recited in claim 8 wherein at least one of the ingress

2 points is coupled to a public switched telephone network.

1   10.   The method as recited in claim 8 wherein at least one of the ingress

2 points is coupled to another packetized network.

1   11.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the one or more parameters

2 are used to prepare the bill according to at least one of a total number of information

3 units transmitted, an average number of information units transmitted, and a peak

4 number of information units transmitted.

1   12.   A computer program product encoded in at least one computer

2 readable medium to implement a billing program for a packetized network carrying

3 voice traffic:

4   a first instruction sequence executable to retrieve from a storage location a

5   measure of network utilization associated with a plurality of voice calls

6   received into the packetized network, the measure being a function of a

7   number of information units transmitted over the network to carry the

8   voice calls; and

9   a second instruction sequence executable to determine a charge for the

10   plurality of voice calls according to the measure of the network

11   utilization.

1   13.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12 wherein the

2 network utilization measure is a function of an average number of the information

3 units transmitted.

1   14.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12 wherein the

2 network utilization measure is a function of a peak number of the information units

3 transmitted.

1   15.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12,

2   wherein the at least one computer readable medium is selected from the set of

3   a disk, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium

4   and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications medium.

1   16.   A method of determining a cost for a plurality of voice calls

2   transmitted into a network, comprising:

3   determining one or more measurements indicative of network utilization for

4   the plurality of voice calls, the one or more measurements being

5   related to a number of information units transmitted into the network

6   and associated with a digital representation of the voice calls; and

7   determining a cost for the plurality of voice calls as a function of the one or

8   more measurements.

1   17.   The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the one or more

2   measurements includes a number of information units transmitted from one or more

3   ingress points into the network.

1   18.   The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the one or more

2   measurements includes an average number of information units transmitted from one

3   or more ingress points into the network.

1   19.   The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the one or more

2   measurements is a function of a peak number of information units transmitted from

3   one or more ingress points into the network.

1   20.   A method of charging for a plurality of voice calls entering a network,

2   comprising:

3   receiving a plurality of voice calls into the network;

4   measuring a parameter related to a number of information units transmitted

5   over a time interval, the information units being associated with the

6   voice calls; and

7   computing a cost for the voice calls based at least in part on the measured

8   parameter.

1   21.   The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the cost is computed

2   according to a total number of information units transmitted into the network during

3   the time interval.

1   22.   The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the cost is computed

2   according to a peak number of information units transmitted into the network.

1   23.   A method of generating a bill for use of a network carrying voice

2   traffic:

3   retrieving from a storage location one or more network utilization measures

4   associated with a plurality of calls received into the network, the one or

5   more network utilization measures being related to a number of

6   information units transmitted into the network and associated with the

7   calls; and

8   calculating a charge for the plurality of calls as a function of the network

9   utilization measures.

1   24.   The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the calls are voice calls.

1   25.   The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the calls include modem

2   calls.

1   26.   The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the one or more network

2   utilization measures include at least one of a measure of peak information units

3   transmitted, a measure of average information units transmitted and a measure of a

4   total number of information units.

1   27.   A method for providing telecommunication services over a network

2   comprising:

3   providing a telecommunication service in which calls entering the network are

4   charged as a function of a number of information units used to

5   transport the calls across the network; and

6   receiving the calls into the network.

1   28.   A method for providing telecommunication services over a network

2 comprising:

3   establishing a billing relationship with a user of the telecommunication

4   services, the billing relationship providing for charging for a group of

5   calls received into the network as a function of a number of

6   information units used to transport the calls across the network; and

7   receiving the group of calls into the network in accordance with the billing

8   relationship.